

Legislative Analysis



INDIVIDUALS CARRYING PISTOL WHILE BOW HUNTING

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<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

House Bill 4855 (proposed substitute H-1)
Sponsor: Rep. Dave Prestin
Committee: Natural Resources and Tourism
Complete to 11-5-25

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

SUMMARY:

House Bill 4855 would amend section 43510 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (NREPA) to provide that the act and its rules do not prohibit an individual who is hunting game with a bow and arrow from transporting a pistol or carrying a loaded pistol, regardless of whether the pistol is concealed or not, and regardless of whether the individual has a license to carry a concealed pistol or is exempt under state law from needing such a license.

Section 43510 now provides that NREPA, or a rule promulgated or order issued under NREPA by either the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) or the Natural Resources Commission (NRC), cannot be construed to prohibit an individual from transporting a pistol or carrying a loaded pistol, whether concealed or not, if the individual has a license to carry a concealed pistol or under the circumstances is otherwise allowed under other state law to carry a concealed pistol without obtaining such a license.

The bill would amend this provision to add that NREPA, or a rule or order issued under it, does not prohibit an individual from transporting a pistol or carrying a loaded pistol, whether concealed or not, if the individual is hunting game with a bow and arrow.¹

Finally, the bill would provide that any individual who is authorized to carry a pistol under section 43510, as described above, cannot use that pistol to take game or dispatch wounded game during archery season, unless the game endangers the individual's life or safety.

MCL 324.43510

FISCAL IMPACT:

House Bill 4855 is unlikely to directly affect costs or revenues for the Natural Resources Commission nor the Department of Natural Resources. The FY 2025-26 NRC budget totals \$77,100 Gross (\$27,800 GF/GP) and the FY 2025-26 DNR budget totals \$543.2 million

¹ Section 227 of the Michigan Penal Code provides in part that "A person shall not carry a pistol concealed on or about his or her person, or, whether concealed or otherwise, in a vehicle operated or occupied by the person, except in his or her dwelling house, place of business, or on other land possessed by the person, without a license to carry the pistol as provided by law and if licensed, shall not carry the pistol in a place or manner inconsistent with any restrictions upon such license." <https://www.legislature.mi.gov/Laws/MCL?objectName=mcl-750-227>

Gross (\$73.0 GF/GP). The bill is also unlikely to directly affect costs or revenues for local governments.

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■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency staff for use by House members in their deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.